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EXAMINER
JOO, JOSHUA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2154	

DATE MAILED: 08/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/057,364	YOSHIDA, TOMOYA
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joshua Joo	2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 August 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>14-30</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>14-30</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>24 January 2002</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/2/006</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment filed 8/1/2006

1.   Claims 14-30 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-24 have been considered but are moot

in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.   Claims 14-19, 21, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Motoyama, US Patent #5,887,216 (Motoyama hereinafter).

5.   As per claim 14, Motoyama teaches the invention as claimed including an administration

system comprising:

an image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet

through a first firewall server of the first local network (Fig. 1; Col 4, line 22-30. Network 16

comprising devices, e.g. printer, facsimile, and printer, also referred to as monitored devices.

Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall 14 connected between Internet and network 16.); and

a relay server located outside the first local network and connected to the Internet (Col 4, line 37-42; Col 5, lines 5-2, 31-36. Workstation on network 52 communicates with devices through the Internet.);

wherein the image forming apparatus comprises:

a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the relay server through the first firewall server and the Internet (Col; 8, lines 61-67; Col 11, lines 14-17. Notify of events or warnings to workstation. Col 5, lines 36-41. Connection-mode of communication includes communication on the Internet. Col 9, lines 16-18. If connection-mode is not properly functioning, connectionless-mode may be used. Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall connected between Internet 10 and network 16.),

an accessing section which accesses the relaying server and obtains restoration work information based on the trouble type information from the relay server through the first firewall server and the Internet (Col 10, lines 17-21. Receive commands based on received information. Col 9, lines 57-62. Download software due to bug. Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall connected between Internet 10 and network 16.), and

a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information (Col 10, line 17-21. Monitored device changes parameters based on received commands. Col 10, line 29-34. Process simple or complex instructions.); and

wherein the relay server comprises a memory which stores the trouble type information transmitted from the image forming apparatus (Col 9, lines 2-8. Database describes various information of the monitored device such as service history. Col 10, line 41-55, 60-65. Database to describe malfunctions, conditions, and events.).

6.   As per claim 15, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system
of claim 14, further comprising a database which stores a plurality of items of trouble type
information and a plurality of items of restoration work information in correspondence with each
other (Col 10, line 2-8, 49-55. Database describing various information of the monitored device.
Col 10, line13-16. Compare received information with information looked up in database to
determine appropriate change parameters.).

7.   As per claim 16, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system
of claim 15, wherein each of the stored items is classified as corresponding to one of a
restorable trouble and non-restorable trouble, and the stored items of restoration work
information corresponding to the items of trouble type information classified as being restorable
(Col 17, lines 41-50. Determine if problem can be corrected. Change parameters to correct the
problem if problem can be corrected.).

8.   As per claim 17, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system
of claim 15, wherein the relaying server provides the corresponding restoration information for
retrieval by the image forming apparatus based on the trouble type information received from
the image forming apparatus (Col 10, lines 18-21. Transmitting appropriate commands. Col 9,
lines 57-62. Download software to correct bug.).

9.   As per claim 18, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system
of claim 16, wherein the relaying server judges whether or not the image forming apparatus is
able to conduct the automatic restoration process by itself by accessing the database (Col 17,
lines 12-14, 26-30. Monitored device may perform analysis and correct the problem.   Self-

diagnostic capability. Col 17, lines 34-46; Col 20, lines 15-19. Determine if the monitored device can be corrected by changing parameters.).

10.   As per claim 19, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein when the automatic restoration process is carried out, the transmitting section of the image forming apparatus transmits result information specifying a result of the automatic restoration process to the relaying server (Col 12, line 62-64. Monitoring device, i.e. diagnostic service center. Col 17, line 41-50. Determine if problem is solved.).

11.   As per claim 21, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 15, wherein the relaying server comprises the database (Col 10, lines 2-7, 49-55. Data base.).

12.   As per claim 23, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus administration system of claim 14, wherein the image forming apparatus further comprises:

a detecting section which detects when a trouble occurs in the image forming apparatus (Col 8, line 61- Col 9, line 4. Detect event requiring attentions.); and

a judging section which determines a kind of the trouble (Col 9, lines 2-10. Identify critical and non-critical events for determining mode of communication.); and

wherein the image forming apparatus transmits the trouble type information in accordance with the determined kind of the trouble (Col 9, line 2-10, 19-24. Transmit appropriate information.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

14.   Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama, in

view of Wiklof et al, US Patent #6,618,162 (Wiklof hereinafter).

15.   As per claim 24, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration

system of claim 14, wherein the restoration work information is periodically updated.

16.   Wiklof teaches of continually updating restoration work information, i.e. printer's

software, wherein the software may include bug fixes (Col 5, lines 22-25; Col 6, lines 26-29).

17.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Wiklof because the teachings of Wiklof to

continually update restoration work information would improve the system of Motoyama by

providing resources for the printer to correct any new problems and allowing for the upgrading

of the printer's performance.

18.   Claims 20, 22, 25-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Motoyama, in view of Lodwick, US Publication #2005/0280864 (Lodwick hereinafter).

19.   As per claim 20, Motoyama does teach the image forming apparatus administration

system of claim 19, further comprising: an administration apparatus located in a second local

network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local

network; wherein the administration apparatus accesses the relaying server to obtain the result

information.

20.   Lodwick teaches of an administration apparatus located in a second network and

connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, wherein

the administration apparatus comprises the database (Fig. 1; Paragraph 0064; 0071), wherein

an administration apparatus accesses the relaying server to obtain status information of a

printer (Fig. 1; Paragraph 0064; 0071; 0101; 0114).

21.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick because the teachings of Lodwick of

paragraph 20 would improve the system of Motoyama by allowing an administrative apparatus

to obtain information from an intermediate apparatus without the difficulty of accessing the

image forming apparatus located on different local networks behind firewalls.

22.   As per claim 22, Motoyama does not teach the image forming apparatus administration

system of claim 15, further comprising: an administration apparatus located in a second local

network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local

network; wherein the administration apparatus comprises the database.

23.   Lodwick teaches of an administration apparatus located in a second network and

connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, wherein

the administration apparatus comprises the database (Fig. 1; Paragraph 0064; 0071).

24.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick because the teachings of Lodwick of

paragraph 23 would improve the system of Lodwick by providing a source to transmit data to the printer and providing an administrative apparatus to be notified of status of the printer for corrections (Paragraph 0063; 0101; 0114)

25.   As per claim 25, Motoyama teaches substantially the invention as claimed including an image forming apparatus for an image forming apparatus administration system, Motoyama's teachings including:

(i) the image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network (Fig. 1; Col 4, line 22-30. Network 16 comprising devices, e.g. printer, facsimile, and printer, also referred to as monitored devices. Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall 14 connected between Internet and network 16.),

(ii) an administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network (Col 4, line 37-42; Col 5, lines 5-2, 31-36. Workstation on network 52 communicates with devices through the Internet.), and

(iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet (Col 4, lines 43-45. Interconnected computer on the Internet.),

the image forming apparatus comprising:

a transmitting section which transmits trouble type information to the administrative apparatus through the Internet (Col; 8, lines 61-67; Col 11, lines 14-17. Notify of events or warnings to workstation. Col 5, lines 36-41. Connection-mode of communication includes communication on the Internet. Col 9, lines 16-18. If connection-mode is not properly functioning, connectionless-mode may be used. Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall connected between Internet 10 and network 16.);

an accessing section which accesses the administrative apparatus and retrieves

restoration work information from the administrative apparatus through the Internet (Col 10,

lines 17-21. Receive commands. Col 9, lines 57-62. Download software. Col 5, line 1-4.

Firewall connected between Internet 10 and network 16.); and

a control section which controls the image forming apparatus to conduct an automatic

restoration process in accordance with the restoration work information (Col 10, line 17-21.

Monitored device changes parameters based on received commands. Col 10, line 29-34.

Process simple or complex instructions.).

26.   Motoyama teaches of an image forming apparatus, an administrative apparatus, and a

relaying server. Motoyama further teaches of accessing the administrative server for restoration

work information. However, Motoyama does not teach that the trouble type information is

retrieved from the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the Internet;

accessing the relaying server and retrieving restoration work information from the Internet,

wherein the restoration work information has been transmitted from the administrating

apparatus to the relaying server through the Internet based on the trouble type information.

27.   Lodwick teaches of a client apparatus, a relaying server, and an image forming

apparatus (Fig. 1), wherein the imaging forming apparatus transmits status information to the

relaying server, which can be retrieved from the relaying server by an Internet device, e.g. client

apparatus, (Paragraph 0101; 0114) and wherein the client apparatus can relay information to

the relaying server for retrieval by the image forming apparatus (Paragraph 0064-0066).

28.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick for the imaging forming apparatus to

access data, e.g. restoration work information, from a relaying server, provide the data, e.g.,

restoration work information, from an administrative apparatus, and the administrative apparatus

to retrieve status information, e.g. trouble type information, from the relaying server. Doing so

would improve the system of Motoyama by increasing security because the imaging forming

device is connected to a trusted server outside of the local area network (Paragraph 0066) and

providing a server for storing and transferring data between local area network (Paragraph

0024; 0061-0062).

29.   As per claim 26, Motoyama teaches the image forming apparatus of claim 25, further

comprising: a trouble type judging section which detects a trouble occurring in the image

forming apparatus, which judges a type of the trouble, and which generates trouble type

information (Col 8, line 61- Col 9, line 4. Detect event requiring attentions. Col 9, lines 2-10.

Identify critical and non-critical events for determining mode of communication. Col 9, line 2-10,

19-24. Transmit appropriate information.).

30.   As per claim 27, the image forming apparatus forming of claim 25, wherein when the

automatic restoration process is carried out, the transmitting section transmits result information

specifying a result of the automatic restoration process to the relaying server (Col 17, lines 12-

14, 26-30. Monitored device may perform analysis and correct the problem. Self-diagnostic

capability. Col 17, lines 34-46; Col 20, lines 15-19. Determine if the monitored device can be

corrected by changing parameters. Col 17, line 41-50. Determine if problem is solved. Col 10,

lines 20-21. Monitored device changes parameters according to received commands.).

31.   As per claim 28, Motoyama teaches substantially the invention as claimed including an

administrating apparatus for an image forming apparatus administration system, Motoyama's

teachings include:

`   (i) an image forming apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the

Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network (Fig. 1; Col 4, line 22-30. Network

16 comprising devices, e.g. printer, facsimile, and printer, also referred to as monitored devices.

Col 5, line 1-4. Firewall 14 connected between Internet and network 16.),

        (ii) the administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the

Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network (Col 4, line 37-42; Col 5,

lines 5-2, 31-36. Workstation on network 52 communicates with devices through the Internet.),

and

        (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall server and

connected to the Internet (Col 4, lines 43-45. Interconnected computer on the Internet.),

the administrating apparatus comprising:

        an accessing section which accesses the imaging forming apparatus and retrieves

trouble type information from the imaging forming apparatus through the Internet (Col 10, lines

9-15. Requests and receives density information.); and

        a transmitting section which transmits restoration work information to the imaging

forming apparatus through the Internet, wherein the restoration work information corresponds to

the trouble type information (Col 10, lines 18-21. Transmits appropriate commands to change

parameters. Col 9, lines 57-62. Download software to correct bug.).

32.   Motoyama teaches of an image forming apparatus, an administrative apparatus, and a

relaying server. Motoyama further teaches of accessing the imaging forming apparatus and

retrieving trouble type information through the Internet; and transmitting restoration work

information to the image forming apparatus. However, Motoyama does not teach of accessing

the relaying server and retrieving trouble type information, wherein the trouble type information

has been transmitted from the image forming apparatus to the relaying server through the

Internet; and a transmitting section which transmits restoration work information to the relaying

server through the Internet and is transmitted to the relaying server for retrieval by the image

forming apparatus from the relaying server through the Internet.

33.   Lodwick teaches of a client apparatus, a relaying server, and an image forming

apparatus (Fig. 1), wherein the imaging forming apparatus transmits status information to the

relaying server, which can be retrieved from the relaying server by an Internet device, e.g. client

apparatus, (Paragraph 0101; 0114) and wherein the client apparatus can relay information to

the relaying server for retrieval by the image forming apparatus (Paragraph 0064-0066).

34.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick for the imaging forming apparatus to

access status information, e.g. trouble type information, from a relaying server, wherein the

status information has been transmitted from the image forming apparatus; and transmitting

data, e.g. restoration work information, to the relaying server through the Internet for retrieval by

the image forming apparatus through the Internet. Doing so would improve the system of

Motoyama by increasing security because the imaging forming device is connected to a trusted

server outside of the local area network (Paragraph 0066), and providing a server for storing

and transferring data between local area network (Paragraph 0024; 0061-0062).

35.   As per claim 29, Motoyama teaches of obtaining result information regarding an

automatic restoration process constructed by the image forming apparatus based on the

restoration work information (Col 17, lines 12-14, 26-30. Monitored device may perform

analysis and correct the problem. Self-diagnostic capability. Col 17, lines 34-46; Col 20, lines

15-19. Determine if the monitored device can be corrected by changing parameters. Col 17,

line 41-50. Determine if problem is solved. Col 10, lines 20-21. Monitored device changes

parameters according to received commands.). However, Motoyama does not teach of

accessing the relaying server to obtain result information regarding an automatic restoration

process constructed by the image forming apparatus based on the restoration work information.

36.   Lodwick teaches of obtaining status information from a relaying server, wherein the

status information was transmitted to the relaying server by a printer (Paragraph 0101; 0114).

37.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama and Lodwick to obtain information, e.g. result

information, from a relaying server. Doing so would further improve the system of Motoyama

and Lodwick by providing a server for storing and transferring data between local area network

(Paragraph 0024; 0061-0062) and providing a trusted server for the transferring of data

(Paragraph 0074).

38.   Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motoyama and

Lodwick, in view of Wiklof.

39.   As per claim 30, Motoyama does not teach the administrating apparatus of claim 28,

wherein the administrating apparatus updates the restoration work information.

40.   Wiklof teaches of updating restoration work information, i.e. printer's software, wherein

the software may include bug fixes (Col 5, lines 22-25; Col 6, lines 26-29).

41.   It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to combine the teachings of Motoyama, Lodwick, and Wiklof because the teachings of

Wiklof to update restoration work information would improve the system of Motoyama by

providing resources for the printer to correct any new problems and allowing for the upgrading

of the printer's performance.

Conclusion

42.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant

is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

43.   A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this

final action.

44.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Joshua Joo whose telephone number is 571 272-3966. The examiner can

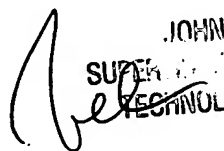normally be reached on Monday to Friday 7 to 4.

45.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John A. Follansbee can be reached on 571 272-3964. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

46.   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 10, 2006
JJ

JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPER   TENT EXAMINER
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